

## Spotlight 2025 Non-Classical Voice Semifinal Judges

**Ilene Graff** is a Grammy-nominated recording artist (*Baby's Broadway Lullabies*) who made her Broadway debut in the musical *Promises, Promises*. She also starred on Broadway as Sandy in *Grease* and created the role of Cleo in *I Love My Wife*. Ms. Graff co-starred with Glenn Close in the Disney Company film version of *South Pacific*. Other theatre credits include Rose in *Gypsy*, *Charley's Aunt* with Charles Grodin, and Annie in *Annie Get Your Gun*. Her cabaret concerts sell out from coast-to-coast, and she loves teaching her Making the Song Your Own–Vocal Performance Workshop. Ms. Graff is best known for the nearly 6 full seasons she spent as Marsha Owens in the ABC TV comedy *Mr. Belvedere*.

**Daniel Guzman** has appeared on Broadway in *Cyrano*, *The Musical* and *Les Misérables*, as well as in national and international tours including *Camelot*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Cats*, *Les Misérables*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Sweet Charity*, *Evita*, *West Side Story*, *Man of La Mancha*, *The King and I*, and *A Chorus Line*, among others. Mr. Guzman has performed several shows at The Hollywood Bowl, including singing for Stephen Sondheim at his 75th birthday concert and performing in *Les Misérables* as Grantaire. Mr. Guzman executive produced the feature film *First Comes Love* and can be seen in *The Secret Office*, a new series from his production company Laughing House Productions. His web series *The Emotional Support Center* has received honors for two of its episodes: "Coulrophobia" and "The Latin Experience." His musical *Save the Girl*, a rock/rap 80's comedy, was staged for the new works series at the YaDa Theater in New York. His play *Feuding Family at a Funeral* is also in development.

**Nita Whitaker** made her Broadway debut as Wileta Mayers in Alice Childress' Tony-nominated play *Trouble in Mind*. She was the 2019 NAACP Best Supporting Actress for her role as Mom Winans in the new musical *Born for This* and was given the 2022 Artist Award by Skylight Theater. She has worked with legendary producer David Foster and has sung duets with Andre Bocelli, Michael Bolton, and Josh Groban. Ms. Whitaker also sang the original demos for Whitney Houston's standards "I Will Always Love You," "I Have Nothing," and "I Look to You." She has penned two award-winning books: *Finding My Voice: My Journey from Grief to Grace* and *When Your Hand is in the Lion's Mouth: The Life and Wisdom of a Man named Green*. She champions literacy through her non-profit In A World With Books, which has put 28,500 new books in the hands of underserved children. Ms. Whitaker has performed in four world premiere musicals and has recorded and co-produced four studio albums.

**Christopher Youngsman** is a versatile performer and entertainment professional. A graduate of SFSU, he has been on Broadway and in national tour productions of *Urinetown* and *Grease*. Off-Broadway and regional credits include *The Gorey Details*, *Just So!*, *Hair*, *Pageant*, *Forever Plaid*, *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, and *Gypsy*. He has also participated in workshops for *The Full Monty* and *Shrek* on Broadway. TV credits include *Hannah Montana*, *The Tonight Show*, *Rescue Me*, *Starved*, *Love Monkey*, the *Tony Awards*, and educational series *Between the Lions*. Film credits include *Across the Universe*, *Still Waiting in the Wings*, and *Hollywood Musical*. Mr. Youngsman has also taught improvisation at the Deborah Gibson Electric Youth Camp and musical theatre for the Transcendence Theatre Company. He has directed productions of *Charlie Hustle*, *The Unauthorized Musical Parody of Bridesmaids*, *Baseball Swing*, and *Trumpet of the Swan*. He also hosted the Live Variety Show, *The Christopher Show*. He currently serves as an Entertainment Manager for Seabourn Cruise Lines.